

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original): A closed drainage device comprising:
a pre-evacuated chamber;
a drainage tube connecting the pre-evacuated chamber to a needle; and
a clamp attached to the connecting tube, wherein the clamp is in a first position that maintains the vacuum of the pre-evacuated chamber and has a second position that does not maintain the vacuum of the pre-evacuated chamber.

Claim 2 (Original): A closed drainage device according to claim 1, wherein the clamp is a sliding clamp.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A closed drainage device according to claim 1, wherein the pre-evacuated chamber is sterile.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A closed drainage device according to claim 1, wherein the pre-evacuated chamber has a pressure of up to 500mm Hg.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A closed drainage device according to claim 1, wherein the pre-evacuated chamber has a volume of 25cc, 50cc, 100cc, 300cc, 600cc or 1200cc.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A closed drainage device according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the pre-evacuated chamber is cylindrical.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A closed drainage device according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the pre-evacuated chamber is coiled and/or folded.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A closed drainage device according to claim 7, wherein at least a portion of the pre-evacuated chamber is coiled and/or folded into the form of a "catherine wheel".

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A closed drainage device according to claim 1, wherein the at least one wall of the pre-evacuated chamber is corrugated.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A closed drainage device according to claim 1, wherein the at least one wall of the pre-evacuated chamber is made of plastic.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A closed drainage device according to claim 1, wherein the pre-evacuated chamber has a vacuum port.

Claim 12 (Original): A closed drainage device according to claim 11, wherein the vacuum port is a plug.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A closed drainage device according to claim 1, wherein the pre-evacuated chamber has an access port.

Claim 14 (Original): A closed drainage device according to claim 13, wherein the access port is a tap.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A closed drainage device according to claim 1, wherein the needle is a gauge needle.

Claim 16 (Original): A closed drainage device according to claim 15, wherein the gauge needle is a 19 gauge.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A closed drainage device according to claim 1, wherein the needle is a venflon needle.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A closed drainage device according to claim 1, wherein the needle is a butterfly needle.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A closed drainage device according to claim 1, wherein the needle has a Luer Lock fitting.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A closed drainage device according to claim 1, wherein the drainage tube is connected to the needle by a Luer-Lock.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A closed drainage device according to claim 1, wherein the drainage tube is connected to the pre-evacuated chamber by a Luer-Lock.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): A closed drainage device according to claim 1, wherein the drainage tube is connected to the pre-evacuated chamber at manufacture.

Claim 23 (Canceled).

Claim 24 (New): A method for removing fluid from a body cavity, which comprises:
inserting the needle of the closed drainage device of claim 1 into the body cavity of an area of skin of a patient.